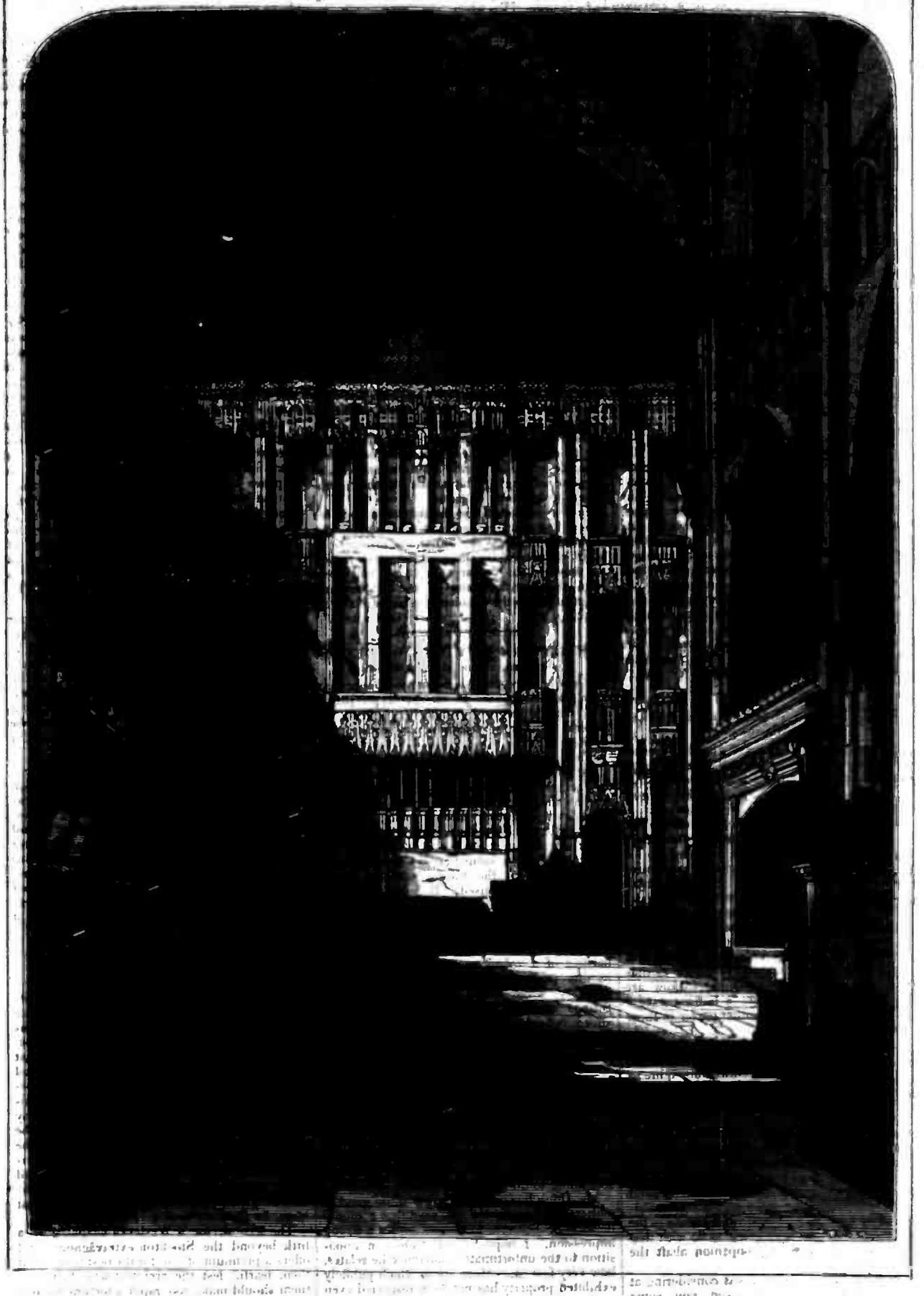
ALTAR SCREEN, ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY, HERTS.



ST. ALBAN'S ABBEY, HERTS.

St. Alban was born at Verulam, in Hertfordshire, in the third century, and went to Rome, where he served seven years as a soldier, under Diocletian. He afterwards returned to England, became a Christian, and suffered martyrdom in 303, during the dreadful persecution raised by Diocletian.

The fame of Alban, recorded as it was by Bede, made a deep impression on the minds of the superstitious. "The Ecclesiastical History" of that author was published in 731, and in the year 795, Offa, king of the Mercians, built a monastery to the honour of Alban, on the place where he had suffered, then called by the Anglo-Saxons, Holmhurst, but since, in honour of the martyr, named St. Alban's.

Considerable division of opinion exists among antiquaries respecting the existence at

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